(b) Since the Act came into force with effect from 1.7.2004, figures relating to the enhanced penalty are available only for the period from July, 2004 to October, 2004 and the same are as under:—

| Railway | Amount of fare and penalty realised from ticketless/irregular passengers (Rupees in crores) |
|---|---|
| Northern | 12.30 |
| North Eastern | 2.60 |
| Northeast Frontier * | 1.26 |

**Price of structural steel**

1733. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the recent past a Committee was constituted to study the factors responsible for abnormal hike in the prices of structural steel used in Railways;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by the Committee to deal with the contracts for procuring structural steel for the use of railways; and

(c) the steps taken by Government on the recommendations of this Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) A Committee was constituted in the Ministry of Railways to examine the issue of abnormal hike in the price of steel used in Railways. The Committee has examined the issue of abnormal hike in the price of steel in the recent past and submitted its recommendations regarding dealing with present and future contracts. The recommendations are under examination in the Ministry.